



DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

For Your Information...

Green Travel Tips

Whether you are traveling for business or pleasure, you can do many simple things that will preserve and protect the environment. All that is required is an effort to reduce waste, conserve natural resources and lessen the environmental impact of your trip. It is easier than you may think.

Before you leave ...

A green trip begins at home. Many simple things can be done to help green your trip and save some money.

- **Pack light.** Apply the golden rule of packing – estimate what you think you will need and cut it in half. Extra weight not only requires extra fuel, but also may result in additional baggage costs.
- **Adjust your thermostat and water heater** so energy is not wasted while you are gone.
- **Turn off the icemaker** (lift wire) to prevent flooding should it break while you are gone.
- **Unplug.** Even when turned off, televisions as well as many large and small appliances continue to use energy.
- **Stop your newspaper.** Some newspapers will allow your subscription to be extended at no cost for the time you are gone. Check with your newspaper publisher.
- **Use electronic tickets** when possible for plane, train, boat and bus trips. Electronic tickets generate less waste and cost less to replace.
- **If driving, make sure your vehicle is road ready.** To save money, improve fuel efficiency, reduce pollution and, of course, avoid problems on your trip, make sure your engine is properly tuned and your tires are properly inflated. If you change your own oil, make sure you recycle it. More than 800 sites in South Carolina accept used motor oil from do-it-yourself oil changers. Many also accept used oil filters and oil bottles.
- **Refill travel-size or small bottles and jars** with products you already have such as shampoo, mouthwash and other necessities. You will save money and reduce waste.
- **Avoid using disposable cameras.** Take your own, preferably a digital camera. If your camera uses film, buy rolls of film with 36 shots rather than 24 or 12. That will reduce packaging waste and save you money.
- **Consider a solar charger.** Most cameras, cell phones and MP3 players can be charged with a solar charger, which saves energy and reduces pollution.
- **Look for green hotels and motels.** Try to stay at hotels and motels that have environmentally friendly practices. Consider hotels that allow you to walk or use public

transportation to your destination. Ask a few questions before booking:

- What kind of recycling program does the hotel have (e.g., aluminum, plastic, newspaper, composting)?
- Do guests have the option of reusing towels and sheets instead of having them changed everyday?
- What does the hotel do to reduce energy and water consumption (e.g., install low-flow toilets and showers or energy-efficient lighting)?

- **Stay at a green hotel.** When traveling in South Carolina, look for hotels, motels and restaurants that are members of the S.C. Green Hospitality Alliance.

Getting around ...

How you get there and how you get around when you are there makes a difference (e.g., energy conservation and pollution prevention).

- **Take the train.** Air travel has the biggest negative environmental impact. For shorter trips, consider the train instead of flying.
- **Rent an energy-saving car for a long trip.** If you own a vehicle that is not fuel efficient, rent a car that is. It will save money on gasoline and miles on your vehicle.
- **Choose a smaller car.** When renting a car, choose the smallest vehicle that will work. Decline any upgrades to larger cars, which will cost you more in gasoline.
- **Consider renting a hybrid or alternative-fuel vehicle.**
- **Use mass transit once you've arrived.** Whenever possible, use public transportation such as buses and subways. If you take a taxi, share with someone – it will save you money and reduce pollution. Better yet, if possible, walk or bike.
- **If you drive, drive green.** Drive more slowly. One study reported that for all vehicles tested there was at least a 20 percent loss in fuel economy as speed was increased from 55 miles per hour (mph) to 75 mph.

During your stay ...

Once you have arrived, be a green guest. Participate in the hotel's green programs to lessen your impact on the environment.

- **Take part in the linen reuse program.** If the facility does not have one, let staff know that it is not necessary to change your sheets and towels every day. According to

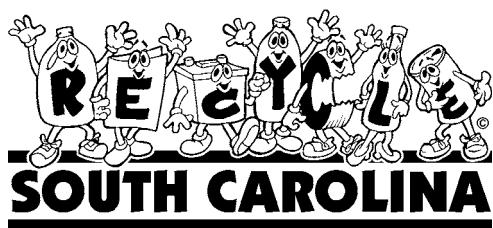
commercial laundry equipment manufacturers, forgoing fresh linens and towels can result in saving as much as 30 gallons of water per room per day.

- **Turn off the lights, television, radio and computer** as well as adjust the thermostat to use less energy when you leave the room.
- **Draw curtains** to keep heat in the room on cold nights. On hot days, draw curtains to keep heat out of the room.
- **If you sleep with a night light**, bring one with you – don't leave the bathroom light on all night.
- **Bring your own dry-cleaning or grocery bag** to carry your dirty laundry home.
- **Keep showers short.**
- **Don't leave the water on when brushing your teeth.**
- **Recycle your newspaper.** If you are provided a complimentary newspaper or if you buy your own, ask the hotel to see that it is recycled or take it home to recycle.
- **Take partially used shampoo, soap and other complimentary hotel items with you** when you check out, but leave unopened items in the room.
- **Bring your own drinking cup** rather than using the prepackaged ones provided.
- **Use the hotel's electronic checkout program**, if available, to reduce paper waste.
- **Give your hotel feedback.** Encourage management to go green or express your appreciation for the green programs it offers.

Camping, fishing and hiking ...

Just because you are not in a hotel doesn't mean that you can't go green. When enjoying the environment, do your part to take care of it.

- **When camping, avoid disposables whenever possible.** Rent equipment and pack as waste free as possible by bringing products that can be reused or recycled.
- **Always use a canteen or other refillable container for water and other beverages.**



- **Leave the campsite and park better than you found it.** Recycle what you can and properly dispose of the rest. Never burn or bury trash of any kind.
- **When visiting parks, recycle when possible.** Many national, state and local parks in South Carolina have recycling programs.
- **Don't use lead sinkers when fishing** to keep lead out of the environment.
- **Carry an extra bag when hiking** to pick up any trash along the way.

Sightseeing ...

Brochures, leftover food and packaging account for most of a traveler's trash. Again, by taking some simple steps, you can eliminate or reduce these types of waste as well as prevent pollution.

- **Resist the urge to grab more brochures than you need.** Recycle the ones you don't keep as souvenirs.
- **Don't litter.** Carry your trash and recyclables with you until you find a collection container. Clean up after picnics and other outings. Dispose of all material in proper containers to prevent any harm to the environment or wildlife.
- **Plan sightseeing activities where you can use public transportation or the hotel van.** Or maybe you can walk, bike or share a ride.

Dining ...

When eating in or eating out, these simple tips help to conserve resources, reduce waste and save money.

- **Consider dining in at "eat-in" restaurants and hotel dining rooms** whenever possible to reduce the number of disposable items used.
- **Take only the condiments, napkins and utensils that you need** when eating on the go.
- **Eat local.** Buy food from a local market. It's healthier, less expensive and often tastes best.
- **Take reusable plates and flatware on picnics and other outings.**



Office of Solid Waste
Reduction & Recycling
1-800-768-7348 ● www.scdhec.gov/recycle

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